

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Further, I believe that this may set a precedent where corporations control our media in an effort to sway/stage public opinion. This is not the effect of an open democracy. Rather, it is a sign of the corrosive influence of big-monied groups on the power of the people's vote.

This "commercial" at issue is one that has not been vetted and does not require any burden of proof on the instigators of this "commercial." In terms of justice, this is counter to our principles of fairness and due-course.

Please stand up for the American people instead of another corporation. You are the servant of the American people, not a lobbyist for corporate interests.

Thanks!
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